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# Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom (SPECA) Challenge Grants Program

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE,  
AND ENVIRONMENT



YOUTH, FAMILY,  
AND COMMUNITY



FOOD SAFETY  
AND NUTRITION



INTERNATIONAL  
PROGRAMS



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National Program Leader

# USDA NIFA

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## Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom (SPECA) Challenge Grants Program

# QUICK OVERVIEW



# Eligible SPECA Applicants:

- (1) public secondary schools (not districts)
- (2) public or private nonprofit junior and community colleges
- 3) institutions of higher education
- (4) nonprofit organizations



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# They Apply Because They Want To...

Increase the number and diversity of students who will pursue and complete a 2- or 4-year degree in FANH fields.

**SPECA**

Enhance the quality of K-14 instruction to meet the current and future need for discovery in the food, agricultural, natural resources and human sciences (FANH)



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# The Request for Applications (RFA)

**An RFA is your instruction manual for writing a grant**

**The 2017 RFA was released January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

It is available online at: <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/secondary-education-two-year-postsecondary-education-and-agriculture-k-12>

**Applications are due March 10, 2016**, submitted through Grants.gov

Total funding available in FY17: \$858,500



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## Attention: Grants.Gov

Grants.gov requires you to have a DUNS and SAM identification. Getting these credentials may take a few months.

If this is your first time applying for a federal grant, make sure your institution is capable of submitting through Grants.gov.

Also, make sure you have the ability to save and create documents as Adobe PDFs. Grants.gov will not process other documents.

Go to the Grants.gov section on organization registration or Grants.gov support for details. Don't wait until the week applications are due!!



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# PROGRAM DETAILS



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# Projects Should Benefit K-14 Students



Ag in the K-12  
Classroom



Secondary School  
Grades 9-12



Junior or community  
college  
2-Year Associate

SPECA supports for-credit academic instruction



Questions? Contact Us Translations



Home

Teacher Center

Student Center

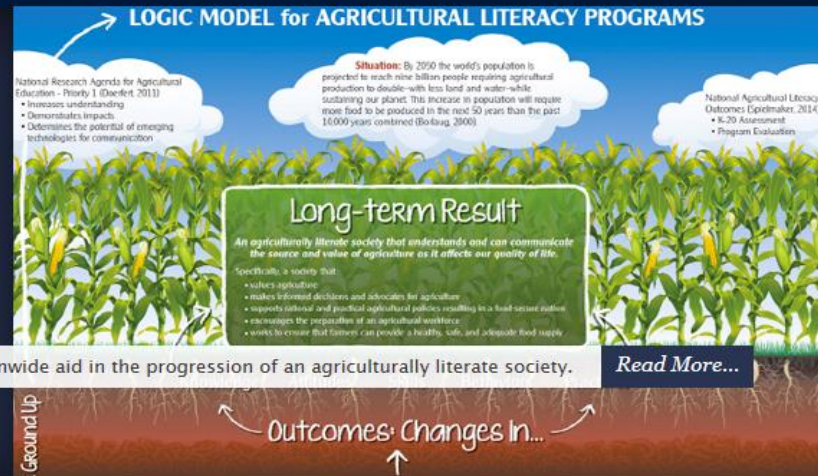
Get Involved

Affiliates

## A Logic Model for Agricultural Literacy

Outlines how Agriculture in the Classroom efforts nationwide aid in the progression of an agriculturally literate society.

[Read More...](#)



### Curriculum Matrix



June Featured Resources

My Little Seed House and Seed Book  
Esperanza Rising  
Middle School Nutrients for Life Lessons

### Conferences & Happenings



Not too late to join us in Louisville, Kentucky, for the 2015 National Conference! Share this Press Release  
Save the dates for the 2016 National

### Tweets

[Follow](#)

**Food for Thought**  
@AITCtweets

2 Jun

The Featured Resources for June are on the NAITC Curriculum Matrix!  
[agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix...](http://agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix...)  
#agclassroom #agliteracy  
[pic.twitter.com/S6lgotdlFh](https://pic.twitter.com/S6lgotdlFh)



June Featured Resources



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# EDUCATIONAL NEED AREAS

# Educational Need Areas



Curriculum  
Development,  
Instructional  
Delivery Systems  
and Expanding  
Student Career  
Opportunities



Faculty  
preparation and  
enhancement for  
teaching



Facilitating  
Interaction with  
Other Academic  
Institutions



# Educational Need Areas

## Curriculum Development, Instructional Delivery Systems and Expanding Student Career Opportunities

- Create and improve curricula
- Instructional materials and other learning resources
- Attract, recruit, and retain students in agriculture fields

## Faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching

- Advance faculty development
- Build teaching competency and leadership
- Develop subject matter expertise
- Improve student recruitment and advising skills

## Facilitating Interaction with Other Academic Institutions

- Promote institutional connections:
- Secondary/Postsecondary 2-Year /4-Year
- Maximize the development and use of resources supporting instruction



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## Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom (SPECA) Challenge Grants Program

# PROJECT TYPES



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## Only 1 Project Type Exist for SPECA: Education/Teaching Projects

Other NIFA grants  
accept research,  
extension, and  
integrated projects

Change is  
administrative in  
nature and made to  
align SPECA with  
NIFA-wide structure.



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## Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom (SPECA) Challenge Grants Program

# GRANT TYPES



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# GRANT TYPES

Planning Activity Grants

\$25,000

Regular Grants

\$50,000

Collaborative Grant Type 1

\$150,000

Applicant + One or more Partners

Collaborative Grant Type 2

\$300,000

Applicant + Two or more Partners



# Grant Types

## Planning Activity grants

Applicants in this Grant Type may request up to \$25,000 (total, not per year) to:

- Facilitate strategic planning session(s) required of faculty, industry, professional association, community leaders, or other necessary participants
- Goal is to develop a formal plan leading to a subsequent submission of a Collaborative Grant.



# Grant Types

## Regular Grant (Single Institution/Organization)

- Applicants may request up to \$50,000 (total, not per year)
- Applicant executes the project without the requirement of sharing grant funds with other project partners.
- Projects should support more than just one class or pay an instructor. A single project should have broad student impact to be competitive.



# Grant Types

## Collaborative Grant Type 1 (CG1) (Applicant + One or more Partners) (Formerly Joint Projects)

- Applicants may request up to \$150,000 (total, not per year)
- Applicant executes the project with assistance from at least one additional partner. The partners must share grant funds



# Grant Types

## Collaborative Grant Type 2 (CG2)

(Applicant + Two or more Partners)

(Formerly Large Scale Comprehensive Initiative (LCI))

- Applicants may request up to \$300,000 (total, not per year) for a CG2 Project Proposal
- At least two additional partners
- The additional partners must share grant funds



# Grant Types

## Collaborative Grant Type 2 (CG2) (Special Requirements)

- A CG2 project differs from a CG1 in project scope and impact.
- CG2 projects must support a multi-partner approach to solving a major state or regional challenge in FANH sciences education at K-14 grade levels.



# Funding Restrictions

- The project director must be a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States
- Funds can't be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility.
- Promotional items (e.g., T-shirts and other give-a-ways) and food functions (e.g., cookouts or other social meal gatherings) are considered 'entertainment' expenses, and are ***not allowed***
- Grant funds may not be used for student tuition or scholarships



# Matching Funds

SPECA applicants must provide funds, in-kind contributions, or a combination of both equal to the grant award. However, the matching requirements are waived for some institutions. Including these institutions in your project provides a waiver for all applicants.

- A research agency of the USDA
- 1862/1890/1994 Land-Grant institutions
- Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities
- Insular area schools
- Recipients of McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Program Funds
- See RFA for other qualifying entities



# Application Details to Remember

- Applications must be in PDF format to be uploaded into Grants.gov, including your narrative and budget justifications
- In 2017 applicants should use the SPECA program code, a change from previous years (OW/UV)
- Page limits will be strictly enforced.
  - 10 pages for regular and CGs, plus 5 pages for tables and figures
  - 7 pages for planning with 3 pages for tables



# Tips:

- Don't wait until last minute to submit
- Technical assistance available through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- Serve as a reviewer if you are not applying this year. Email: [jlee@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:jlee@nifa.usda.gov) if interested.



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# **OTHER EDUCATION FUNDING OPTIONS**



- USDA NIFA Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educators: <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources-and>
- USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>
- USDA Farm to School Grant: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/farm-school-grant-program>
- USDA Summer Food Service Program: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program-sfsp>
- USDA Farm Service Agency Youth Loans: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=paca&topic=you>
- General USDA Youth Resources: [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=FOR\\_KIDS](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=FOR_KIDS)



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## Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educators

**Objective:** Provide *immersive* learning experiences in non-formal educational programs for secondary school educators, enabling them to identify and replicate best practices to enhance student outcomes in the food, agricultural, natural resources, and human (FANH) sciences



# Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educators

## Eligible Institutions:

- 4-year colleges and universities
- (2 or 4 year) 1994 Land-Grant Institutions
- (2 or 4 year) Certified Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities.



## Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educators

- Developing **self-sustaining models** for professional development that better prepare these education professionals to provide outstanding teaching, guidance, institutional structures, etc. that enhance student outcomes in FANH sciences.
- Changing instructional approaches to effectively identify skill gaps and address conceptual areas particularly challenging to students.
- Integrating innovations in science and pedagogy into existing teacher professional development programs (e.g. through hands-on research/extension experiences for teachers with partner institutions and labs).
- Other methods to fill the existing gap of professional development in advanced FANH sciences for educational professionals at the secondary level.



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## Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educators

Webinar: Recording available at:

<http://nifa.usda.gov/event/informational-webinar-professional-development-opportunities-secondary-school-teachers-program>

Request For Applications: AFRI ELI

<http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources-and>



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